

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 13 and 21-24 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14-20 have been rejected. Claims 3 and 13 have been objected to. Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3 and 13 have been amended. Claims 21-24 have been newly added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The examiner has required a new title because the title of the invention is allegedly not descriptive. Applicant has amended the title to be --Semiconductor Circuit and Functional Block Including Synchronizing Circuit for determining operation timing--.

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Larky et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,210). Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 3 and 13 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form. Allowable claims 3 and 13 have been merely rewritten in an independent form pursuant to the examiner's request, and thus their skill remains precisely the same as originally filed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-24 have been added to obtain claim coverage to which the applicant believes it is entitled. New claims 21 and 22 correspond to cancelled claims 5 and 6 respectively, but depend on allowable claim 3. Claims 23 and 24 correspond to cancelled claims 15 and 16, respectively, but depend on allowable claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 21-24 are patentable over the references of the record.

Applicant notes that an IDS is submitted herewith citing references that were cited in an Office Action in a counterpart Japanese patent application. Consideration of these references and initialing of the enclosed form PTO-1449 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

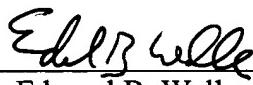
Appl. No. 09/895,997
Docket No. 2102475-991130
Response to Office Action of August 17, 2004

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 07-1896, referencing docket number 2102475-991130.

Respectfully submitted,

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